



CALIFORNIA VETERANS BOARD
GENERAL SESSION MEETING #658
Friday, October 17, 2003 – 9 A.M
Veterans Home of Chula Vista, Chula Vista CA



GENERAL SESSION:

The California Veterans Board (CVB) monthly public meeting was called to order at 9 A.M. Board members present included Chairman George Sinopoli (Fresno), Vice Chairman Edward Feldman (Westlake Village), Members Jerry Basconcillo (Delano), Leo Burke (Stockton), and Judy Gaze (San Diego)

John Smith led the invocation. Michael Giorgino led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Sinopoli introduced the members of the Board, and CVB Interim Executive Officer Sandra Munoz.

Joe Maguire introduced CDVA Staff.

Debra Kania reported to Board. Homes Division Activity: Chief consultant for three homes. Completed HIPAA. Barstow transfer completed September 19, 2003. Collecting data from each resident transferred. Studying on depression data from transfer residents. Case management program is currently being studied for each transfer residents if higher level of care is needed.

Ed Feldman questioned on Barstow Home transfers on how recommendations of higher level of care if and when it arises how will it is handled.

Debra Kania residents who reside currently at Barstow if need of higher level of care will seek the recommendation from current medical care and will also seek the advise from Chula or Yountville to check if openings are available. If short stay or long care is needed there are community care available.

Leo Burke questioned about the land in West LA.

Debra Kania could not answer question on new construction progress, forwarded to Joe Maguire. George Andries is in charge of new construction.

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Joe Maguire MOU has been written up and in final stages in completion. Historical preservation is the issue for greater LA. 11 acres in Los Angeles.

Judy Gaze questioned how does the staff support the homes.

Debra Kania agreed with supporting the homes in standardizing the operational function of all three homes. There was no common knowledge in the past on all three homes operational policies and procedures standardization. It is now complete for all three homes.

Debra Kania current administrator at Barstow has now stepped down and been replaced with Bill Griffith, but will be replaced until new administrator when filled. Hoping by beginning of year position will be filled. Barstow resident's quality of life issues are important and seeking community support is encouraged. 147 total census. 102 current census of Dom unit, budgeted for 120. Yountville is going through operational changes due to budget issues.

Dan Murray census at Chula Vista 323 total, 149 DOM, 48 RCFE, 126 SNF. 69 from Barstow transfers successful. Review applications are in process. 1709 applications have been received.

Judy Gaze questioned what is the greatest challenged in transfer residents and are there openings in the SNF POD's. Compressed time frame and teaching employees the programs and the differences between urban community verses to rural community and the services that urban community has to offer. Educating the new residents in urban community and the different services Chula has been a challenge but rewarding.

Judy Gaze announced the great job Dan Murray and his staff has done for the transfer residents from Barstow.

Ed Feldman questioned outside care and how sharing outside care is benefiting and has that happened.

Dan Murray answered with Peer Review is needed.

Formal Hearing announced by George Sinopoli with no response from appellant.

Joe Maguire suggested continuing with agenda and giving appellant opportunity to appear, perhaps he ran in traffic problems.

The audience introduced themselves.

MOTION passed to approve minutes from the CVB meetings of September 19 2003.

REPORT FROM BOARD MEMBERS ON ACTIVITIES FOR SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER:

Member Judy Gaze preparing for presentation on November 1, 2003 at Miramar 11:00. CDVA website women's' section, POC will be stated on website for reservations. Judy will be the speaker. Usually 200 woman vets attend.

Member Jerry Basconcillo attended board meeting in September and dedication of new post of American legion post and attended ceremony of first casualties in Iraq. Attended a ceremony in city of Delano. Attended Stand Down in Bakersfield.

Member Leo Burke attended American Legion Call-In at Pasadena. Attended board meeting in Sacramento.

Member Ed Feldman attended a Veterans Board in Sacramento and additional meeting for select committee interview in Georgetown.

Chairman Sinopoli reported attended consulting meeting and attended board meeting. Interviewed Sandra Munoz for Executive Officer. Attended dedication at Fresno. Attended board of supervisors in Fresno, and attended city counsel meeting for Fresno Veterans Home.

REPORTS:

(Status of CDVA Division / Select Cal Vet Board (CVB) Committees / Special)

FARM AND HOME PURCHASES, CDVA DIVISION – Judy Gaze. Don Christiansen is also present. Farm and Home program has the lowest interest rate in comparison to outside commercial sector. Reported on HR1742 bonds to be available for all veterans. Currently veterans who serve prior to 1977 qualify for such bonds for financing. Need the support to pass HR1742. It will help veterans who come after us. Congressman Thomas is the key person to get this passed. Change in Cal Vet insurance is needed. If homes were destroyed by earthquake or fire the cost would be very high. We could save on the cost of insurance for the veterans.

Don Christiansen commented on the insurance rate. Loans have increased. Processing time is now 26 days. No complaints on processing time. QVMB remain 4.5%. RFQ study is in process. 5 changes on Cal Vet program. There is no age limit on obtaining a Cal Vet Loan.

VETERANS HOMES OF CALIFORNIA, CDVA DIVISION:

VETERANS SERVICES DIVISION – Jerry Basconcillo announced to support our veterans who are in Iraq. Construction of cemetery in Shasta County is progressing and on time.

POLICY AND PROCEDURES, CVB Committee, Leo Burke- Mr. Burke explained independent counsel is not on board. Committee recommends postponing action recommenced in memo dated September 23, 2003. Recommended select committee to meet in November on Policy and Procedures. Permission granted. Policy has been approved for independent counsel.

LEGISLATION, CVB, Leo Burke – Mentioned important bills, refer to binder.

Formal Appeal Dismissed, Clarence Dillard was not present.

ANNUAL REPORT, CVB Committee, Leo Burke stated the transition of new Governor and are waiting for response.

RECOGNITION AND AWARDS, CVB Committee, George Sinopoli: Nothing to report at this time.

LEGAL DIVISION, Joseph Maguire, and Deputy Secretary/Chief Counsel: Mr. Maguire reported process of appealing decision of Barstow death. Another death has been up held from the Department of health. Announced progress from department attorney for Debbs case, which was ongoing since 1996. A Cal-Vet Home was taken from home association and now department regained that property. Workman's comp case recently dismissed. Reviewing contract law are some of the things the law office is doing.

INSPECTOR GENERAL, Ms. Julie Hom, The Deputy Inspector General, reported that the audits for county veterans service offices are currently ongoing. Employee's complaints are on going. Flyers are available on the table. Cal Vet home loan audit is currently on going.

PUBLIC COMMENT comments from Don Lake representing Veterans For A Better Veterans Home. Copies of handouts available by Don Lake. Daniel Murray commented on national cemetery in San Diego. Robin Rustin for Voice For Veteran's Services request a resolution. John Lowe, VFW Adjutant comments the following, "Thank you Mr. Chairman, my name is John Lowe, I am the State Adjutant/Quartermaster for the Veterans of Foreign Wars, we are a Veterans Advocacy Group. I am here today and fortunately this is my hometown and it is a pleasure to come back down here. I am here to ask a request of the board on behalf of our organization. We've had submitted numerous letters to the department of Veterans Affairs in regards to issues pertaining to the Cal Vet Farm and Home Loan Program and the initial request started back in August 1st, in which we issued a press release, August 8th about the pending staffing cuts and some other issues with the Cal Vet Farm Home Loan Program.

I am here today on behalf of our organization to ask a request from Cal Vet Board to initiate a policy that would require that the Department of Veterans Affairs, or the Secretary, Deputy Secretary or whoever it is written to would respond within at least a 30-day period addressing our concerns. Unfortunately, I don't know how many of you folks here in this audience are VFW members, I don't know, but it took us having to publish in a newspaper our concerns so that we can finally get a response from the Department of Veterans Affairs. I think that is totally inappropriate. I would just ask that at your board meeting or at your next meeting that you would discuss that policy to insure that the department adequately responds to concerns especially from Veteran Service Organizations. Thank you Mr. Chairman."

NEW BUSINESS/AGENDA ITEMS - Next board meeting in Yountville December 5, 2003.

FUTURE MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS:

All meetings take place on Friday unless notified. The chairman anticipates going to Yountville in December.

Yearly schedule is posted on web site: www.cdva.ca.gov/board

CLOSED SESSION (if necessary or required)

The general reason or reasons for a closed session, and the specific statutory authority therefore, are (1) to consider the appointment or employment of a public employee under the authority of Section 11126(a) of the Government Code; and (2) to confer with or receive advice from the Board's legal counsel regarding pending litigation under the authority of Section 11126(E)(2)(A), (2)(B), and (3) of the Government Code.

- There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.
- These minutes are only a summary of the proceeding and are not reported here verbatim.
- These minutes are posted to the California Department of Veterans Affairs on-line website at www.cdva.ca.gov/board

ADJOURNED